It is high time, Sir, that you look at the thing from a different standpoint. The angle of vision has to be changed. Take us into your confidence. Try to respect the wishes of the chosen representatives of the people. Do not try to foist your rule-making powers and the like against us. Permit me, Sir, to say that we have a common object, namely, the promotion of the happiness and prosperity of the people of this State. We are here, Sir, to make an honest endeavour to achieve this one common object. Let there be a spirit of comradeship between us, the Members of Government on the one hand, and the non-official section of this House on the other, and I am sure this House shall not be the costly farce it is sometimes characterised to be.

I regret I have to remark that, during the last three years of the existence of this Council, there has grown a strong feeling amongst the chosen representatives of the people, that their legitimate aspirations are being thwarted and smothered by the official section in every possible manner. To you, Hon'ble Members on the opposite side, I can only pray that you should try to remove that unhappy feeling. Let us not look at each other with suspicion. Let us all put our shoulders together, and let us all try to work for the achievement of our common object. This much with regard to the general aspects of the administration.

Coming to the details, I think I would do well to say a few words on the most important Departments of the Government. I would like to take up *Agriculture and Panchayats* first.

Agriculture.

Strictly speaking, there is no particular reason why these two Departments should be grouped together, except perhaps for the reason that both these are development Departments, Agriculture trying to develop the resources of the land, and Panchayats trying to develop the resources of the people to govern themselves. It is expressed in some quarters 'that our Agricultural Department has been organised and developed on too ambitious lines for the resources and requirements of the State'. I for one, cannot for a moment subscribe to this view. Our country is pre-eminently agricultural. Every facility has to be provided for its improvement. New methods of cultivation have to be introduced. There is much scope for research work. Demonstrations have to be started in every part of the State. The ryot has to be taught how to increase the out-put from the land with the minimum expenditure. Our harvests entirely depend upon the monsoon. They fail very often, and our harvests also fail consequently. Irrigation schemes have to be organised and worked on systematic lines. In fact, our

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Government has been culpably negligent in this respect. Nothing worth the name has been attempted or done in this matter for years past. More than 75 per cent of the people are depending on agriculture and agriculture alone. Unless that is put on a sure and sound basis, Government cannot congratulate itself on its achievements in this line. This is a Department, which has to be organised, and worked exclusively. There is no justification for clubbing it with Panchayats. The policy seems to be bad, and the sooner it is rectified, the better.

Panchayats.

In any scheme of rural reconstruction, which any Government undertakes, the Village Panchayat plays a very important part. It is here that self-government begins, and people are taught to manage their own affairs. The Regulation, by which Panchayats are constituted in our State, is framed in a very liberal spirit. These units of self-government are given very important functions. Minor irrigation, communications, medical relief, etc., and in some cases judicial functions, are assigned to the Panchayats. But the present method of the working of the Panchayat Department is far from satisfactory. There is no proper and effective supervision exercised over the working of these bodies. The Superintendent of Agriculture cannot find time to satisfactorily and effectively supervise these bodies. A special officer is absolutely necessary for this purpose. The funds now placed at the disposal of these bodies are insufficient for the carrying out of their duty properly. Even the small amounts sanctioned for each Panchayat are not placed at its disposal in time, so that they may utilise them in the best manner possible. The result is deplorable. Sanctioned amounts are allowed to lapse in many cases, and thus the conveniences of these villages are sacrificed. I know, Sir, of instances, where maintenance of Panchayat roads has not been taken up even by the end of Mithunam, for the simple reason that the sanctioned amounts are not made available to those bodies. Particular attention has to be paid to these bodies, as they, if properly worked, would go a great way in the establishment of popular government in the country.

Excise.

Sir, I come next to the *Excise Policy* of the Government.

The policy that is adopted by the Government in the working of the Department has to be modified to a very great extent. Temperance and prohibition should be the ultimate goal of the Government in their excise policy. I am not unaware of the fact, Sir, that our Darbar cannot work out an independent policy of its own, as our State is surrounded by Travancore and

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